

The Art of Neighboring
Bulverde United Methodist Church Sermon Series
Week 5—August 11, 2019

Overview: Loving our neighbors can get messy. How do we know if we are doing too much or not enough? We are called to love – but setting firm boundaries in love is healthy. It’s also important to invest relational time and energies wisely: invest time and energy with those who seem open and responsive.

Jesus sets a wonderful example of showing kindness to everyone, but going deeper with only a few.

Scripture:

Matthew 17:1-9 CEB Six days later Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, and brought them to the top of a very high mountain. He was transformed in front of them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as light. Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Jesus. Peter reacted to all of this by saying to

Jesus, "Lord, it’s good that we’re here. If you want, I’ll make three shrines: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, look, a bright cloud overshadowed them. A voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son whom I dearly love. I am very pleased with him. Listen to him!" Hearing this, the disciples fell on their faces, filled with awe. But Jesus came and touched them. "Get up," he said. "Don’t be afraid." When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Don’t tell anybody about the vision until the Human One is raised from the dead."

Reflection Questions:

1. Read Luke 10:5-11. What is a “person of peace?” (From pg. 147 in the book: “The term person of peace refers to someone hospitable and open to becoming a friend.) Who are the people of peace in your neighborhood? Write their names down below.

Reflection Questions, continued:

2. What's the difference between being responsible to a person and being responsible for a person?

TO	FOR
Being responsible <i>to</i> a person is healthy. It means we are responsible...	Being responsible <i>for</i> people is unhealthy. It means we mistakenly take responsibility...
To love them To encourage them To bless them To pray for them To serve them	For their well-being For their finances For their happiness For their success or failure For their spiritual progress For the strength of their marriage

The Art of Neighboring: BUMC 6 Week Sermon Series		
Date	Topic	Scripture
7/14/2019	Call to Neighboring	Acts 17: 26-27
7/21/2019	Overcoming Barriers	Luke 10: 38-42
7/28/2019	Moving Down the Line	Luke 5: 27-32
8/4/2019	Posture Is Everything	Matthew 5: 14-16
8/11/2019	Open Doors	Matthew 17: 1-9
8/18/2019	A United Front	Romans 12:14-21

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Prayer:

Lord, make clear to us the doors You have opened or closed for the relationships in our neighborhoods – let us be at peace with that. Help us to set firm but loving boundaries and to discern how we can best support our neighbors. Amen.